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"We know, at last, that we can only discover truth by a rational and democratic interest in life, and to give truth complete social expression is the endeavor upon which we are entering. Thus the identification with the common lot which is the essential idea of democracy becomes the source and expression of social ethics."

TRANSACTIONS OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES. Press of J. B. Savage, Cleveland. \$1.25.

This volume, containing all the papers and discussions of the Buffalo Congress, with the reports on the status of nursing in different countries sent to the International Council of Nurses, is of great interest and value. It contains the latest word on nursing questions and gives a full, complete picture of the present status of the nursing profession. Many of the ablest and best-known nurses in all parts of the world have contributed to its pages, and it contains a great deal of information not to be found in any other available form. As a book of reference it is invaluable, and ought to be found in every hospital and training-school library; as nursing history it might well be used in third-year club and study work or in the reading-courses of alumnae societies. Orders for the book should be sent to Miss Banfield, Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia.—D.

BOOKS TO BE READ TO PATIENTS

"GARDEN OF A COMMUTER'S WIFE."

The day of the animal and the garden is surely with us, and garden-books have been multiplied until every garden in the land would seem to have had its own especial story written. Yet here is one more, "The Garden of a Commuter's Wife," by—but it's published anonymously, so it may not be fair to make too close a guess, even though the style is unmistakable to anyone who knows the previous work by the same pen. Somehow, with all the charm that *any* garden holds, we can't help wishing that the "commuter's wife" herself might have been a little less perfect—that she might have had at least one "redeeming vice."

As to animals, "OUR DEVOTED FRIEND, THE DOG," would be a fascinating book for children, whose attention often will not follow a long story, for this is made up of short tales and newspaper clippings. Stories about the devotion, intelligence, faithfulness, and wisdom make up the greater part of the book, followed by more serious chapters on the care of dogs and laws regarding them.

"THE FIRESIDE SPHINX," by Agnes Repplier, is devoted to the cat, and is greatly superior to the dog-book from the literary point of view. Some of the chapters are: "The Cats of Antiquity," "The Cat of To-Day," "The Cat Triumphant," and even though one's affections may be firmly attached to one's own dog, there's an immense amount of interest in these pages. We can't be far wrong in the guess that they were written while a cat of Miss Repplier's own lay curled not too far from her ink-stand.

"COMEDIES AND ERRORS," by Henry Harland, is a collection of short stories by the author of the "Cardinal's Snuff-Box." Like that, many of these have their setting in the Italian life he so perfectly understands and so vividly renders. It is an earlier work, and some of the "Comedies" fall short of his more famous book, but through them here and there, in the drawing of a woman's charm, the conversational cleverness which leaves much unsaid, the jewel-like Italian landscape, are suggestions of the fascination of the "Snuff-Box."—L. D. D.